



## Connecticut Sentencing Commission

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## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 985

AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM STATE CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER COURSES TO INMATES AT NO COST.

By Attorney Linda Meyer

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee.

I am Linda Meyer, Professor of Law at Quinnipiac University School of Law. I am here to testify on behalf of the Sentencing Commission in support of Senate Bill 985, AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION REGARDING AN EXEMPTION FROM STATE CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION THAT OFFER COURSES TO INMATES AT NO COST.

The Sentencing Commission's Recidivism Reduction Committee and the full Sentencing Commission support SB 985 because substantial evidence indicates that university courses, offered to currently incarcerated felons, will increase their likelihood of making a successful re-entry when they emerge from prison. This bill removes an obstacle to more college courses being offered to inmates with no additional cost to the State.

Pursuant to the Sentencing Commission's charge to identify best practices in reducing recidivism, substantial evidence existing that university courses increase the likelihood of successful reentry, and SB 985 removing an obstacle to more universities and colleges offering "for credit" courses, we encourage the Judiciary Committee to support this bill.

The Honorable  
Joseph M. Shortall, Chair

Undersecretary  
Mike Lawlor, Vice Chair

Andrew J. Clark, Acting  
Executive Director